A Mock Trial

THE TRIAL OF SCIENCE FOR THE MURDER OF HUMANITY

(Third, Revised and Enlarged Edition)

By

A. S. P. Ayyar, M. A., I. C. S., Bar-at-law,
(FELLOW OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF LITERATURE OF THE UNITED KINGDOM.)

(Staged first by the Cultural League, Vellore)

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SOME OPINIONS.

Sir C. V. Raman :—"I greatly enjoyed reading the Mock Trial of Science for the Murder of Humanity It is full both of fun and of wisdom. It was a most tactful verdict which the jury gave in the case."

Sri C. Rajagopalachariar :—"I went through it as soon as I got it. It is exceedingly well done. I am glad that the guilt of Science is yet 'Not Proven'. Apart from the main theme, there are very fine touches of humour in it."

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CHARACTERS FIGURING IN THE TRIAL.

Philosophy J.	... President of the Full Bench.
Culture J. Intuition J.	... Judges.
Education. Maharajah. Trade. Finance. Research. Service. Citizen. Society. Unemployment. Frontier.	... Jurors.
Politician. Zamindar. Old Thought. Religion. The Inspector-General of Uncommitted crimes.	... Prosecution witnesses.
Medicine. Knowledge. Transport. Electricity.	... Defence witnesses.

Expert in Lunacy.

Public Prosecutor.

Defence Counsel.

Clerk of the Crown.

Usher of the Court.

Science.	... The Accused.
Sergeant.	... In charge of the accused.

A member of the Bar in black gown and hood.

Advocates, spectators, etc.,

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(The Court assembles. There is a Full Bench of three judges, consisting of Philosophy, Culture and Intuition JJ., with Judge Philosophy as the President. The Court is crowded with Advocates and members of the public. The Usher of the Court announces:— "The Judges of the Supreme Court of Time have assembled in full session." The Sergeant enters with the accused, Science, who sits down on a chair in the dock)

A MEMBER OF THE BAR, *(dressed in black robes and bands)*: "I object to the judges and the counsel on either side not being in black coats and gowns, as was the practice before, in all our courts."

JUDGE CULTURE *(after consulting his colleagues)*: "In cold countries, white men dress in black. In this hot country, and especially in this month of April, we, brown men, naturally, dress in white. So long as the dress is dignified, we do not see any objection to its being comfortable also. The objection is overruled."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY *(to the clerk of the Crown)*: "What cases are posted for today?"

CLERK *(fumbles among his papers, and, then sees the accused)*: "The case of Science for the murder of humanity."

JUDGE INTUITION: "Only one case?"

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Oh, but it will take time. Humanity has been bothered with this question for centuries. Call Science!"

USHER (*calls*): "Science! Science! Science!"

(*Science rises from his seat, answers the call, and sits down again.*)

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "My lords, I object to the accused's being seated. The practice has been for an accused to stand, unless he is sick."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "The accused is not yet proved to have committed any crime, and ought to be allowed to sit down, like any other respectable citizen, my lords. This Court has never followed bad old customs."

JUDGE CULTURE (*consults the other two judges*): "We agree. The ruling is that every accused will be allowed to sit down till he is proved to be guilty of a crime, or to be addicted to sleep unless made to stand. Now, clerk, read out the charge. In accordance with the spirit of the times, crimes sure of completion in future are taken as already accomplished and, therefore, punishable as such."

CLERK (*reads out the charge*): "That you, Science, operating on this planet called the earth, have, between the 4th Century B. C. and to-day, by inventing bows and arrows, the sword and the spear, and gun-powder and bomb, and by attempting to discover the death ray, and by occasioning the death of thousands by motor-cars, and by diverse other acts calculated to kill humanity by sapping it of its faith, intelligence and resources, intentionally, or knowingly, acted so as to cause the death of Humanity in 2000 A. D., and thereby committed an offence punishable under section 302 I. P. C., and triable by us—the Full Bench of the Court of Time. Dated this the first day of April 1943."

(To the accused): "Do you plead guilty, or claim to be tried?"

ACCUSED: "I plead guilty! Certainly not! Of course, I claim to be tried. I have a case which, rightly stated, must procure for me an acquittal. I beg of your lordships to hear it calmly, with a jury consisting of men of knowledge and discretion. I am glad that I am being tried by the Full Bench of the Supreme Court of Time. This will not be one of those trials where the judges nod on their benches while the sleepy trial drags on its weary length."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY *(to the clerk)*: "Have the jurors called! Under our new laws, all grave crimes will be tried with the help of a jury, even by a Full Bench."

(To the accused): "Each juror will now be called aloud. As he comes in, you will be asked if you object to him. You have the right to object to him then for proper reasons, like Insolvency, Lunacy, Pauperism, Enmity, Idiocy, Minority, Irresponsibility etc. The Public Prosecutor too can object on similar grounds. The old rule of objecting to any juror, up to the number of eight, without assigning reasons, is abolished, like the ancient right of a dog to bite a man once."

USHER *(calls)*: "Education! Education! Education!"

(Education proceeds to the jury box).

ACCUSED: "I do not know this man at all. His name is familiar to me, but not his face or features. He has not come into personal contact with me till now. Once or twice he seems to have come to my place and casually enquired whether I had made any discoveries applicable to his sphere of activities, and, on learning that I had, to have run away in consternation. I wonder whether I should challenge him."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "You are not bound to challenge him. As you do not object to him, he will take his seat."

(Education sits down in the jury box).

USHER *(calls)*: "Maharajah! Maharajah! Maharajah!"

(Maharajah comes in, dressed in shining apparel, and with a string of pearls round his neck).

ACCUSED: "I object to this juror on the ground of Irresponsibility."

MAHARAJAH: "This is absurd. Responsible Government, no doubt, does not exist in my State. But that makes me all the more a responsible person."

ACCUSED: "Like a reservoir with no water having more capacity?" *(Laughter).*

MAHARAJAH: *(very angry)* "I didn't come here to be insulted like this. I don't want to have anything to do with the accused or his case."

JUDGE CULTURE: "You are, obviously, unfit to be a juror. A juror must not get so easily upset. You may go."

(Maharajah goes away in a huff).

USHER (*calls*): "Trade! Trade! Trade!"

(*Trade appears*).

ACCUSED: "My lords, this man abused all my discoveries about production and distribution and has become a pauper to boot."

JUDGE INTUITION: "He does look cunning enough for that. Has he filed an insolvency petition?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Oh, yes. I shall give your lordships the number at once."

(He goes out, and comes back.)

"He has filed I. P. No. 211 of 1942 on the file of the Sub-Court of Vellore."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "I don't think that there can be such a number in the Sub-Court, my lords. One Mr. C. Rajagopalachariar, when premier, passed a law called 'The Madras Agriculturists' Relief Act', with whose merits we are not concerned now, but, as a result of which, Insolvency petitions have fallen heavily in number. I don't think that the number can be more than 11 in the Sub-Court now. In fact, it never exceeded 25 within my experience of a quarter of a century."

(The Judges consult together.)

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "There is no time for going into this matter now. So, the accused will be given the benefit of the doubt. The Juror will stand down."

(Trade bursts out, "I want to file a petition against the accused for defamation". The Judges ask him to go away, and do as he likes. The Juror goes away, murmuring protests at the injustice done to him.)

USHER (*calls*) "Finance! Finance! Finance!"

(Finance comes in.)

ACCUSED: "I am afraid to challenge this influential person who is responsible for all the wars, revolutions and turmoils on our planet."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "This Court is above fear or favour. If you want to object to him, you can do so. We are here to protect you"

ACCUSED: "I prefer not to challenge him. The authority of this Court extends only to the doors of this building, while the juror is powerful everywhere. The highest punishment this Court can award me is nothing compared to what he can do to me. He can cripple me for life."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "As you happen to be an accused, you will not be prosecuted for contempt. But, take care that you do not say such rash and reckless things hereafter. I suppose that you will concede that he is an honest man?"

ACCUSED: "My lord, I doubt whether he will reach that *superlative* degree. He has, there is no doubt whatever, got on. There is little doubt too that he will soon get oner (honour). But, I am afraid that his days will be over before he gets onest (honest)."

(*Loud laughter*).

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: (*laughing*) "Order! Order! Don't try to be funny. Tell me now, are you one of those who do not appreciate the service done by banks, of which this juror is, shall we say, the mainstay?"

ACCUSED: "What is the value of the service rendered by the present-day banks? Are their loans not akin to the loans of umbrellas in fair weather, and their recall the moment it begins to rain? But, I do not want to dilate further, and offend this mighty individual."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "I allow the juror to take his seat, as you do not object to him."

(*Finance sits down*).

USHER (*calls*): "Research! Research! Research!"

(*Research comes in, an elderly man with a pre-occupied look*)

ACCUSED: "Your Lordships, I submit that this juror is of unsound mind."

RESEARCH: "Stuff and nonsense! What do you know about insanity?"

(*The judges consult together.*)

JUDGE CULTURE (*to the clerk*): "We are not Commissioners in Lunacy. Nor have we any personal experience of lunacy worth mentioning. Clerk, what is it that we can do? Is there any precedent?"

CLERK: "There is an expert doctor now in the Court premises who can declare, in two minutes, after examining this man, whether he is a lunatic or not." (*The Judges ask him to call the expert. The expert comes in, and wants to examine the juror's head. But Research refuses to be examined by him, saying to him, 'What nonsense! How can sanity or insanity be determined by looking at a man's head?' The Judges order his turban to be taken off, so that his head may be examined by the expert.*)

EXPERT (*after scrutinising the head all round, and tapping it at the back*): "Oh, yes. This man is a lunatic all right. But, still, to make it absolutely certain, I will have a second infallible test."

(*To Research*): "Open your mouth, please, and show your tongue."

(*Research shows his tongue.*)

EXPERT (*nods his head significantly*): "This man is a raving lunatic, my lords."

RESEARCH (*pulling the expert by the tie*): "I will learn you."

JUDGE CULTURE: "No quarrel in the Court premises! Usher, ask them both to go away." (*The usher leads them both out of the Court. Research cries out as he goes away, "I am no more lunatic than your lordships."*)

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Silence! Call the next juror."

USHER (*calls*): "Service! Service! Service!"

(*Service comes in.*)

ACCUSED: " What service are you, sir? Indian Civil Service?"

SERVICE: " Oh, no, I am a much humbler individual, Social Service. I am dealing mostly with the reclamation of discharged prisoners and rescued women"

ACCUSED: " This man has been honestly trying to do good service, though on most unscientific lines. He is not one of those swollen-headed men I took him for. I don't want to challenge him."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: As you like."

(*Service takes his seat.*)

USHER: (*calls*): " Citizen! Citizen! Citizen! ".

(*Citizen comes in.*)

ACCUSED: " Your lordships, this man has not yet arrived at his age of discretion. He is a minor. He has to grow up and learn a lot before he can judge of men and things.''

CITIZEN: " My lords, I am not a minor. How can I be? I have two children. And, two years ago, I was put up as a major for taking part in a free fight at the elections."

JUDGE INTUITION: "We need not inquire into your alleged minority. Suffice it, that you were put up for an unseemly quarrel. Stand down!"

CITIZEN: "But, I was discharged, my lord."

JUDGE INTUITION: "That does not matter. It is better that a man with your record is not a juror in a case like this. Perhaps, you were discharged as you were a minor, and not responsible for your acts."

(*Citizen goes away.*)

USHER (*calls*) "Society! Society! Society!"

(*Society, a beautiful lady in silk, comes in.*)

ACCUSED: "Madam, do you know anything about science?"

SOCIETY: "Oh, a lot about science and scientists."

ACCUSED: "More about scientists than about science?"

SOCIETY: "Oh, yes. I am not so awfully interested in test-tubes. Are you?"

ACCUSED: "I happen to be. I am Science."

SOCIETY: 'I see! How silly of me! But, what are you doing here? I thought you would always be in a laboratory, busy with your test-tubes."

ACCUSED: "This is but an interlude."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Madam, he is an accused. He is to be tried for the murder of humanity."

SOCIETY: "Is he really? How silly of me! Yes, of course, that is why he is here without his laboratory and test-tubes."

ACCUSED: "Let her be a juror. She will not be worse than the average jurors we get, I suppose, provided she does not weep during the trial."

SOCIETY: "They say that they hang those who are convicted of murder. If you are convicted, I shall weep."

(*Laughter*).

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Take your seat, madam. Let us get on with the trial."

(*Society sits down*).

USHER (*calls*): "Unemployment! Unemployment! Unemployment!"

(*Unemployment comes in*).

ACCUSED: "My lords, is a man without any employment also to be a juror?"

UNEMPLOYMENT : "Don't you see, man, that I can devote my whole time to your case, unlike the rest who have their work ? Have these judges any work except hearing cases like yours ?"

(*Laughter*).

USHER : "Order ! Order !"

ACCUSED : "He gave evidence against me in a maintenance case too."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY (*to Defence Counsel*) : "Is he the woman who filed the maintenance case ?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "No, your lordship, he is a man. He was a witness for Agriculture, the lady who sued Science for not maintaining her."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY : "Have you any evidence that he gave evidence ?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Here is a copy of the judgment. (*hands over an old newspaper sheet with scribblings on it.*)

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY (*to the Clerk*): "Is this a certified copy ?

CLERK (*after perusing it*): "No, your lordship, this is a private copy prepared by the accused on the unprinted margin of a newspaper."

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Owing to the lack of issue of copy stamps, caused by the present scarcity of paper, it is difficult to get a certified copy. So, I took a private copy on what paper I could get. I swear that it is a true copy."

UNEMPLOYMENT: "But, I never gave any evidence which was not true, my lord."

ACCUSED : "True ! But, who was responsible for her forlorn state ? Did she ever obey me or go by my advice ?"

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "In view of the heat engendered between the accused and the juror by this allegation, the juror will be asked to stand down."

UNEMPLOYMENT: "Even here I remain unemployed!"

(*goes*)

USHER (*calls*): "Frontier! Frontier! Frontier!"

(*Frontier, a bearded Pathan, comes in*)

ACCUSED: "Are you North-West Frontier or North-East Frontier?"

FRONTIER: "North-West Frontier!"

ACCUSED: "I don't object to this juror, as he comes from the warlike and barren North-West Frontier, and will require my help, for irrigation and electrification, to make him peaceful and happy. Let him hear the evidence in this case, and profit."

(*Frontier takes his seat.*)

ALL THE JURORS: (*stand up and swear, as directed by the clerk*): "Impartial between sense and nonsense, we shall consider the evidence as we like, and give our verdict according to our fancy."

CLERK: "Please choose a foreman." (*All the jurors vie with one another to be foreman. Finally, they elect Finance as the foreman*).

ACCUSED: "I thought as much. He has got oner (honour)."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Silence!"

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: (*rising to open the case for the prosecution*) "My lords—"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "I raise a preliminary objection, my lords."

JUDGE INTUITION : "Does it go to the root of the case?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Yes."

JUDGE INTUITION : (*rather impatiently*) "What is it ?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "The charge, as it stands, is under section 302 I. P. C., for the murder of Humanity. I submit that, even according to it, humanity is not yet dead, and it will not die before 2000 A. D. So far as I can see, I speak with some diffidence, your lordships, who are fully alive, appear to be human beings not affected in the least by Science."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "I have come to the conclusion—."

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "The only physical exercise of some folks seems to be confined to jumping to conclusions." (*Laughter.*)

(*The judges consult one another.*)

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY : "As at present advised, we think that we can reasonably be classified as human beings unaffected by science so far. But, note that the charge relates to the murder in 2000 A. D., and we are now only in 1943."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "That is the point, your lordship !"

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "But, I submit, my lords, that, in a case like this, unless it is absolutely certain that humanity will die by 2000 A. D., of the wounds inflicted by Science, the charge of murder is unjustified, and, with due respect, is illegal, even under the amended law."

(*The judges consult one another.*)

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY : "Public prosecutor, what proof have you to show that humanity will surely die out in 2000 A. D.?"

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: (*Reads from an almanac prepared by Sri Krishna Upasi of Jothinagar.*) "In 2000 A. D., humanity will perish, utterly and irretrievably, as a result of the machinations of Science!"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "This Upasi man is a most unreliable person, in no way comparable to Cheiro or H. G. Wells. He predicted that the whole world would come to destruction in 1911 A. D., when a comet appeared. But the world still exists, and the man has been proved to be utterly and hopelessly wrong. His almanac cannot be taken judicial notice of, like a Gazette. He must be examined in Court and made available for cross-examination!"

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Astrologers, Prime Ministers and Cinema Stars cannot be wasting their time coming to courts. Their expert opinions on coming events, current events and social events, respectively, should be allowed to be proved *in absentia* like the certificates of Chemical Examiners."

(*The judges consult together*)

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "This is not a recognized expert. The almanac cannot be admitted in evidence without examining the learned author. As there is a reasonable doubt regarding the certainty of the death of humanity in 2000 A. D., we have decided, after due deliberation, to drop the charge under Section 302 I. P. C. and substitute one under Section 307 I. P. C.

FOREMAN OF THE JURY: Are we to understand, your lordships, that the charge is dropped?"

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: Oh, no. Instead of being charged for 'murder', he is being charged for 'attempt to murder', a lesser offence. It is permissible under our laws." (*To the Defence Counsel*) "Are you now satisfied?".

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "I should like to be not too insistent, your lordship. But, in the interests of justice, I have to represent

that my client does not deserve to be charged with an attempt to murder. He is completely innocent. If your lordships want to put him on his trial, I submit that the ends of justice will be served by trying him under section 352 I. P. C., for an assault on humanity."

(*The Judges consult together.*)

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "This being a Full Bench of the Supreme Court of Time, we don't think it proper for the offence to be reduced to one of 'assault', triable by a third class magistrate. Besides, the matter requires to be considered carefully after the entire evidence is let in and the arguments heard. So, let the trial proceed".

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: (*opening his case*) "This trial, your lordships and members of the jury, is of a novel character. There are no precedents for it. It is calculated to prevent the murder of humanity and preserve the human race from the machinations of a most insidious enemy. By inventing various weapons of destruction, culminating with the poison-gas and bomb, and by an attempt to discover the death ray, by inventing machinery of all kinds, taking away the skill of hand and causing unemployment to millions of people, and converting even those actually employed from heads and hearts into hands, by killing originality at its source, and providing ready-made second-hand thought, and thus making men no better than the animals which perish for lack of intelligence, by preaching against God, and bringing about spiritual death which inevitably leads to physical death, and by inventing pernicious patent medicines, and making them take the place of food, by putting monkey glands into men, and by other degrading acts, which I shall presently prove, the accused has committed the heinous offence charged against him. I shall now call my witnesses."

(***Politician is called, and sworn in***)

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "What do you know about this accused?"

POLITICIAN: "I know far more about him than I care to disclose."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Stick to the point. Don't indulge in rhetoric."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Rhetoric has become part of the witness, your lordship. He cannot get rid of it."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "All right. I shall allow for his incurable defect. But, let him be as brief as he can."

POLITICIAN: "I have seen so much of life, and heard so much more from reliable friends, that I must needs speak out."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "I wonder whether any friend of yours ever told you this:—

> 'There was an old owl lived in an oak,
> And the more he saw, the less he spoke:
> The less he spoke, the more he heard,
> Why can't we be like that old bird?'

Now go on."

POLITICIAN: "In the wars waged during the past six centuries, nearly twenty million people have been killed by gun-powder, poison gas, aerial torpedoes, mines, submarines, and other diabolical contrivances deliberately invented by the accused, with no other intent than to murder humanity. At the present moment, he is engaged not only in the greatest massacre, in a world war waged with weapons forged by him, but in discovering the death ray, which will destroy everybody, including your lordships."

JUDGE CULTURE: "Leave us alone."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "That is what the accused will not do, my lord."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "I object to the witness's evidence regarding the death ray. An attempt to discover it will amount only to 'preparation' under our law, and can never constitute evidence for proving the charge."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "We are satisfied that the position of law taken by the learned counsel for the accused is correct, and that this evidence will be inadmissible for proving the substantive offence. But it will be admissible to prove the real motive of the accused in inventing gun-powder, poison-gas, bomb and other things, by disproving mistake, accident or misfortune."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: (*Cross-examining*): "Mr. Politician, are you 600 years old?"

POLITICIAN: "I am as old as mankind, in one sense, though, personally, I am only 52 years old. I speak as an expert with a due sense of responsibility. Time will show the truth of my statement."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Now, tell me, sir, have you uttered any lies during these 52 years?"

POLITICIAN: (assuming an air of dignity) "That is my business."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Any other business, sir?" (laughter).

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Have you seen twenty million people die in war with weapons forged by the accused? Can you say that they would not have died without the accused's inventions?"

POLITICIAN: "Yes. I will go further. The people who died are far more happy than those who survived the accused's bombs, torpedoes, machine-guns and poison-gas. Millions of these are maimed and deformed, millions are affected by nerves, and millions have lost their memory."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: Are you one among them?"

POLITICIAN: "I would never have spoken to the above facts, if I had lost my memory. Please exercise your intelligence."

JUDGE CULTURE: "No impertinence, please."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Can poison-gas be used for killing mad dogs?"

POLITICIAN: "Yes."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Do you know that gun-powder and dynamite are being used for blasting rocks, and getting drinking water, as also for constructing tunnels across the Alps, the Western Ghats, etc.?"

POLITICIAN: "Yes."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Don't you admit that while the inventions of the accused lend themselves to abuse, by aggressors, they have, in a more unmistakable way; aided civilized countries to defend themselves, as China against the Mongols. India against the Huns, and England against the Luftwaffer and the submarine?"

POLITICIAN: "I suppose so."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Is death ray a reality? Can you be certain that it will ever be discovered?"

POLITICIAN: "There is no certainty."

(He is discharged.)

(The next witness is Zamindar, a fat man with a prominent double chin.)

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "You see this accused. What do you know about him?"

ZAMINDAR: "Before this accused was heard of, this land was flowing with milk and honey, and was full of healthy people, free from all kinds of disease. To-day, the rice-mill has come, and displaced hand-pounded rice. Cotton-mills have arisen, and ruined the spinners and hand-loom weavers. The motor-car has come, and driven out the bullock carts and jutkas. Buses have come, and are taking busloads of our villagers to the towns, making them useless for life. Our workmen, who were famous for their heads and hearts before, have become mere hands now. There is no more any pride in making things. No educated man handles a plough. There is not one leader with a real stake in the land. Every man considers himself as good as every other. The Indian pride in agriculture has gone, the respect for one's betters has gone with it, and worthless discontent has taken its place. Millions are starving for lack of food and employment. The production of food has fallen. The capacity to eat has increased. All this is due to the ravages of the machines invented by this accused. At this rate, humanity will surely perish by 2000 A. D."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Sir, how did you come to the Court?"

ZAMINDAR: "By car!" (*Laughter.*)

USHER: "Order, order!"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Seeing that you came by car, why do you condemn cars?"

ZAMINDAR: "I often get a head-ache, but I condemn it all the same." (*Laughter.*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "What make of car is it, sir?"

ZAMINDAR: "All that I know is that it has a vacuum engine"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "What is a vacuum, sir?"

ZAMINDAR : "I have it in my head, but I can't express it." (*laughter.*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Do you think that so many millions can be supplied with pins, fountain-pens, pencils, watches, and such like necessaries, without machines?"

ZAMINDAR : "Why do they want all these, and especially pens, pencils and watches? We are all fast becoming writing machines and slaves of Time instead of masters of it, as before. Pins alone may be of some use, especially safety pins, as I find when my buttons fall off."

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "You shouldn't get so fat "(*laughter*). Is there one blacksmith in your place who can make a pin?"

ZAMINDAR: "No. That is the tragedy. The accused has dumped the market with his cheap and worthless things, and made it impossible for the old blacksmith to compete."

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Has not agriculture profited by the introduction of new crops like cabbage and cauliflower, pea and potato, groundnut and cashewnut, tea and coffee, rubber and cinchona, improved sugarcane and paddy seeds?"

ZAMINDAR : "I care more for the old crops, which remained with us, like brinjals, ladies' fingers and drumsticks, than for cabbages, peas and cauliflowers which are grown with great trouble, and then exported outside for others to eat, the moment they are ready!" (*Laughter*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Are you equally critical of the introdnction of the silk-worm and the domestic bee?"

ZAMINDAR : "I see no advantage in them either. Silk worms fed on mulberry in China, their natural home, and it was worth wearing the silk produced by them. But, our Indian silk-worms feed mostly on castor leaves, and the result is that silk is cheap and coarse, and not worth wearing. Bees, in their natural home,

the forest, fed on different kinds of rare flowers in different seasons, and we got different kinds of glorious honey with high medicinal value. Now the domestic bee, fed on sugar-water, has come, like private rain, and my tongue refuses to touch the resultant honey which tastes like thickened sugar water with a tinge of chemicals."

(*Laughter*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "You will at least admit the beneficial effects of the great irrigation schemes and of pumps?"

ZAMINDAR: "I see no reason why. I come from a village where there is not even a minor irrigation tank, or a single pump. But I have heard, from reliable sources, that pumps, if used, break down in six months, A cousin of mine, having lands under the great Dhavaleswaram Project has also told me that all his lands have become saltish after he irrigated them with Government water."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "You have already attacked our bees. Don't get a hornets' nest around you by attacking our Government."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "He will never attack the government, my lord, so long as they maintain the permanent revenue settlement by which he has grown so fat." (*Laughter*)

ZAMINDAR: "Why should we not enjoy for ever the privileges we have got? What is there unreasonable in clinging on to them?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "You change your cars, you change your crops, you change even your residences. Why should your tax alone not change, even though your income from the land goes up by leaps and bounds? Why should poor farmers pay through their noses, and you rich zamindars receive this extraordinary indulgence?"

ZAMINDAR: "What we have, we keep. What can you do about it?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL : My client will soon make the voters see how unscientific this permanent settlement is, and they will get it changed by legislation sooner than you imagine."

ZAMINDAR : "And murder us Zamindars ?"

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "When he is out to murder the whole of humanity, how can you alone expect to be spared ?" (*laughter.*)

ZAMINDAR : (to Defence Counsel) "We shall remain as long as the sun and the moon and the stars remain."

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Oh, no. Your sun is setting, and you are only moonstruck. As for the stars, they foretell strange events to come, events of baleful import so far as you are concerned."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY : " We are trying Science, not the Zamindar. The witness is discharged. "

(*Zamindar gets down. Old Thought is called, and steps into the box.*)

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : " What do you know about this accused, sir ? "

OLD THOUGHT : " Before this man's pernicious activities began, there used to be original thinkers all over the world, like Socrates, Plato and Aristotle in Greece, Shakespeare in England, Firdausi in Persia, Valmiki, Vyasa and Varahamihira in India, and great prophets like Buddha, Jesus and Muhammad. But, after this man's advent, I do not know of even one first-class thinker, or prophet. Newspapers with their third-rate ideas, radios with their fourth-rate singing, and cinemas with their fifth-rate pictures have debilitated the human mind. "

DEFENCE COUNSEL : " Have you got a radio ? "

OLD THOUGHT : " I hired one from the accused, but it went out of order the very next day. "

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "So, you have a grievance against the accused?"

OLD THOUGHT: Oh, no. I was glad to get rid of the radio and its hideous noise."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Can you say whether the people who are supplied with thoughts by the newspapers are capable of thinking for themselves?"

OLD THOUGHT: "My point is that they are capable of thinking for themselves, but that, at present, they are made to borrow their thinking from the newspaper men."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Will those who listen to the radio be able, or willing, to listen to real songs of first-rate songsters?"

OLD THOUGHT: "I don't know much about songs. But I keep an open mind."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Many a man thinks that he has an *open* mind when it is merely a *blank* one. Do you say that those who see films now will go to dramas if there were no films?"

OLD THOUGHT: "I cannot say that."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "You will admit that men do more reading now-a-days?

OLD THOUGHT: "Yes, and women even more. All that is like the sifting of fifth-rate ore for gold. In olden days, when books were rare, solid nuggets of gold used to be the rewards of reading."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Speaking of gold, what is your property qualification?"

OLD THOUGHT: "I own nothing except my character." (*Laughter.*)

(*Old Thought gets down*).

(*Religion is the next witness.*)

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Do you know this accused?"

RELIGION: "I know this accused. He is going to be the death of humanity. He preaches against God, the Creator of mankind. He says that God is not needed for a child to be born. He says that life can exist without God. Indeed, he proclaims that Religion is the opium of the people, and scoffs at it, not knowing that he deals only with conditioned knowledge, and brings no message from the land of the unconditioned, which only holy men can bring."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Have you seen God face to face?"

RELIGION: "What if I have not?"

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Why then do you resent attacks on his existence or powers?"

RELIGION: "Even if I have not seen God face to face, I can repel base attacks on Him, just as a magistrate can repel attacks on the King whom he has not seen."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Nothing that we cannot see exists."

RELIGION: "So, since I cannot see your brains, sir, may I take it that you have none?" (*Laughter.*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Don't you think that by concentrating on the other world we have lost this world?"

RELIGION: "I am not for concentrating on the other world alone. Indeed, my coming here to give evidence against this accused will show that I am quite keen about this world. But, I always put my foot down on the atheism generated by the accused."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Many a man puts his foot down only to find that he has not a leg to stand on." (*Laughter.*) "Now do you think that God can be killed by the most death-dealing discoveries of Science?"

RELIGION: "No, any more than a man can be killed by spitting on him. But, we have to punish spitting all the same. This accused derives his inspiration from the Devil."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "My lords, may I crave your indulgence to allow the accused to reply to this, and also to put his questions to this important witness who has raised new and fundamental issues regarding which I have not received instructions? I may mention that my client thinks that he is at the bottom of this prosecution, and that the case will stand or fall on his evidence."

(The Judges consult together)

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Yes, the permission is granted, as a special case."

ACCUSED: *(To Religion)* "No, sir, I don't derive my inspiration from the Devil. While you impotently worship in your temples, with the hard-earned offerings of devotees, to the gods who do not heed you, I have increased man's wealth and power a million-fold by my inventions. I have fashioned decent towns and dwellings, public hospitals, drains and baths. I have devised for men ways and means to defy death. Every day man's load lessens, every day happiness grows. I follow God and His saying 'Let there be light'. You and the priests say 'Let there be darkness!', and Light is death to Falsehood. That is why you are so wroth, and make this grossly libellous accusation against me."

RELIGION: "Owing to your so-called discoveries, everywhere the strong man triumphs, everywhere the weak lie smitten, everywhere gifts rain on over-laden hands, and shrieks of men and wails of women fill the air. Everywhere the threads of Being are broken, everywhere you have crushed, like shells, with your bombs, the towns and dwellings. Everywhere are armed nations moving restlessly hither, and thither, and Death is busy among them. All the while you are bungling in the old familiar fashion, heedless of the things you crush under your clumsy feet. Cities rise, and Cities perish, nations rise and nations fall, and Death is abroad. You

have invented printing and the newspaper, to propagate war and Conflict and Lies, Atheism and Irreverence. You have, by your astronomical discoveries, pooh-poohed at Creation."

ACCUSED: "Oh, no. What Galileo dreamt, what Bruno guessed, has at last been demonstrated by me. By my activities, the Book of Heaven lies open now, and even children may read its pages, and Creation has been shown to be more fascinating and wonderful than in any fable invented by you about it in your ignorance."

RELIGION: "You do not seem to know my power for good. See how happy Sri Ramakrishna, Sri Vivekananda, Sri Sai Baba and others were through me."

ACCUSED: "Not through you, but through God. But, even accepting your claim as correct, how can a few happy souls wipe out millions of sorrowing, broken men? One broken life, in the eyes of God, ought to out-weigh a thousand lives made perfect. Your path, my friend, lies along bleeding hearts, and you are happy about it. You want the poor to exist for ever, so that virtue may accrue by giving alms to them! Your meaningless rituals, for compelling God to bend to your will, by waving your hands, raising your voice, shedding hypocritical tears, etc, make me laugh, but I refrain on remembering the millions you are deluding by your wiles. From the day you started your activities, the cry of anguish has gone up to the heavens from all really holy men against you. Death and Suffering you idolise, instead of trying to conquer them. 'Dust Thou art, to Dust returnest' you proclaim, and consign Man to the fate of Ants and Coral insects. Race after race has died out despite your prayers for their preservation. You don't seem to mind. Indeed, you proclaim 'Like the Romans and the Greeks, the British and the Indians shall, one day, depart and perish utterly."

RELIGION: "Like the races long departed, these two races also will perish. Like the suns burnt out and faded shall even our sun be shrivelled up one day. How can you prevent death?"

ACCUSED: The knowledge acquired by me will free man from death one day. That has been my dream for ages."

RELIGION: "Dreamer, know one thing to be certain. The death of every living unit is inevitable. As it was born, so will it die. The soul is immortal and eternal, but the body will pass. You will, doubtless, reply by stating your theory of the indestructibility of matter. I grant that the elements remain, and re-emerge, and take new shapes. Even so, the man you knew dies. That particular combination of skin, bone, flesh, blood, sinew and marrow will never come back. You ask why God should do this? Look at men, how they chase bubbles like pleasure, honour, fame, titles, gold and women. Do you think that they are worthy of eternal prolongation? God knows better. In Death's furnace, he melts the dross for other uses. Out of darkness they came. Back to darkness they return. You cannot prevent death, natural death. It is neither necessary nor desirable. It will be enough if you don't wipe out humanity prematurely from this planet by your activities, and ruin its prospects here and hereafter, by sapping its belief in the sacred mysteries and in the illusory nature of this world and the vanity of all things."

ACCUSED: "I would ask man not to waste any thought on these mysteries, but to seek, with his whole heart, to make his earthly dwelling bright and fair. Only for a day he lives, you will say. I reply, let him make that day, so quickly fleeting, scintillate with light and joy for himself and all whom he loves."

RELIGION: "I see that even the Devil can quote scripture."

ACCUSED: "With your experience, you must have known this long ago." (*Laughter.*)

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Order! Order! It is not good manners to laugh at Religion. And he means that *Science* is quoting scripture."

(More laughter. Religion gets down from the box, and the last witness for the prosecution, the Investigating Officer, gets in.)

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "What are you, please?"

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: "I am the Inspector-General of uncommitted Crimes."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Please tell the Court the circumstances in which you arrested the accused."

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: "My good aunt!"

JUDGE CULTURE: "Don't use such slang expressions in court, please."

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: "Your Lordships, what great troubles I experienced in arresting this here accused! I chased him in a motor-car. He took to a junker aeroplane. I pursued him in an *air cobra*. Then he got into a U-Boat. I pursued him in a fast destroyer. Then, he got into a rocket plane, and I brought him down by well-directed anti-aircraft fire. When I arrested him, he disappeared before my very eyes!"

(*Sensation in Court.*)

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "That is strange. There is nothing in the charge to show that the accused is capable of becoming invisible."

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: "But, he did become invisible, my lords. Only, he could not escape from my clutches. I held on to him firmly till his meal-time came, and he had to become visible in order to eat. Then I took him to the Clerk of the Crown."

JUDGE CULTURE: "That's interesting."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: (*cross-examining*) "Officer, did he try to escape?"

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: "How could he? I held him fast."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Are you sure that he became invisible? Then, what did you hold?"

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: "He became invisible, and I held him."

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Did you close your eyes, and thus merely fail to see him?"

INVESTIGATING OFFICER: "No, my eyes were open all right. But, as he became invisible, they were as good as closed regarding his being there, till meal-time when he resumed his body."

(*The Public Prosecutor closes his case*).

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Prisoner at the bar, what have you to say?"

ACCUSED: (*gives the following statement*) "I have been trying to help humanity to the best of my ability. In the course of such activities, I have incurred the enmity of several persons, like Superstition, Ignorance, Prejudice, Vested interest, Fanaticism and Rascality. The case against me is wholly misconceived. It is not only false, but is brought with *malice prepense.* I request your lordships to consider the case as a whole, and to let no irrelevant consideration enter your minds. My discoveries were made honestly, and with the sole intention of benefiting mankind. But, interested and unscrupulous persons stole and misused my discoveries. Just as a bill-hook is primarily intended to cut wood, but can be used for murder, my great discoveries have been misused by people, like the Politician, who, pretending to be friends of humanity, are really its worst enemies, *and try to make it commit suicide.* Careerists of all kinds use my discoveries for their own ends and blame me when they fail or are exposed. I submit that I could never have intended to murder humanity, as all scientists come only from among human beings."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Have you got any witnesses?"

ACCUSED : "Yes. Medicine, Knowledge, Transport and Electricity."

DEFENCE COUNSEL : *(opens his case)* "My lords, besides the points elicited by me in the cross-examination of the prosecution witnesses, to counteract their evidence, I am letting in evidence of the concrete benefits conferred on humanity by my client. It is the rule of law that the prosecution must prove its own case. But, I do not rely merely on that. I am going to prove positively that the accused, far from intending to murder humanity, is the benefactor of humanity. The difference between me and my learned friend opposite is only a point of view. The learned Public Prosecutor is a pessimist, whereas I claim to be an optimist."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "How do you define these terms, please ?"

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY : "I shall do it for him. A pessimist is a man who, when faced with two evils, chooses them both. An optimist is a man who buys a pair of goggles expecting some one to present him with a motor car." (*Laughter.*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "Now I shall call my witnesses."

(*The first defence witness called is Medicine.*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL : "What do you know about this accused ?"

MEDICINE : " Owing to the beneficent activities of the accused, the death-rate among babies below one year has been reduced by 75%. The deaths from diseases like Cholera, Plague, Influenza, Typhus, Yellow-fever, and Malaria have fallen by 50%. Ugly diseases, like Elephantiasis, which make life a life-long misery, have been mitigated by discovering their sources and taking proper precautions. The invention of spectacles and eardrums has relieved millions suffering from defective vision or hearing. People live longer and feel younger. Surgery has saved many thousands of lives. Anaesthetics have made operations almost painless."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: (*cross-examining*) "Do you know that, often, an operation is successful, but the patient dies ?"

MEDICINE: "That is very common. But, there are far more people saved by doctors than killed by them. So, I look at it with equanimity."

JUDGE CULTURE: "It is truly wonderful with what equanimity we can bear other people's troubles."

(*Laughter.*)

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR; "Have you read a book entitled 'Better sight without glasses' "?

MEDICINE: "Yes. It is like better justice without judges." (*Laughter.*)

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Do you know that there is a school of thought which holds that so many babies are not necessary, and that the reduction in the death rate of babies may not be to the advantage of humanity ?"

MEDICINE: "Even if this pernicious doctrine is correct, the right babies were not those killed out before the activities of Science began."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Do you know that there are, even now, many thousands of people in Madras, Calcutta, Cochin, Trivandrum, and other places, afflicted with Elephantiasis ?"

MEDICINE: "Yes, But, there were many more thousands before. The number has been reduced by the protected water-supply, and other benefits conferred by Science."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Some say that these old men living longer and feeling younger are going to be a menace to humanity, like putrid dishes re-heated and served. What do you say to that ?"

MEDICINE: " The old folk in question don't think so ".

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: " Are you a believer also in Life insurance, and in giving false certificates to proposers ?"

MEDICINE: I am a believer in Life Insurance, not for the sake of the living, who are often worthless, as you know, but for the sake of those they leave behind. As for false certificates, except for an age and health certificate I gave you at the time of your appointment to this post..............."

JUDGE CULTURE: " That is irrelevant. Drop it."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: " You are an eminent doctor, sir?"

MEDICINE: " Yes "

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: Don't you think that you, doctors, are interested in increasing illness in order to make your living?"

MEDICINE: " We are no more interested in doing so than the midwives are in going about and encouraging the birth-rate. "

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: " What will happen if you doctors, cease to exist? "

JUDGE INTUITION: " People will have to die a natural death, I suppose. "

(*Laughter.*)

(*Medicine gets down. The next defence witness is Knowledge.*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL: " Sir, what do you know about this accused ?"

KNOWLEDGE: " Before this accused began his activities, the world was full of darkness, ignorance, prejudice and superstition. The accused held up the torch of knowledge in the midst of darkness, and made people use their eyes which were as if they

were shut. Millions lived without seeing the next village; millions did not know the names of the stars, or even of other countries; millions did not know anything about other religions. Misunderstandings, wars, enmities and factions were the result. Now, the accused's labours, by inventing printing and photography, map-drawing and model-making, have made it possible for us to dream of universal education, and to have cheap and excellent text-books about other countries, races and religions, and in all realms of knowledge. The world is a better, wiser, safer, less conceited and more enlightened place to live in. We know too a lot more about stars, eclipses and earth-quakes."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Do you say that there are less deaths by factions and wars now than before the accused began his discoveries, or that knowledge of the stars has made us more peaceful on this planet of ours?"

KNOWLEDGE: "I never said that."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Then, what good did the accused's activities have in reducing wars?"

KNOWLEDGE: "Deaths in private quarrels are less in number now, but public deaths, in wars, have become more numerous. In course of time, wars will be things of the past like duels."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Do you mean to say that knowledge of another country or village or creed or race has led to happiness? Is it not the case that it has led only to more friction?"

KNOWLEDGE: "At present, there is some friction, just as there will be when handling a new machine. It will disappear with time, with increasing knowledge of other races brought about by travel and by emigration and immigration."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Will it? Have not the accused's discoveries enabled the spread of racial arrogance, mass lootings, and wholesale deportations and massacres of peaceful populations?"

KNOWLEDGE: "For the time being, that is so. But please take a long-range view in these matters. Remember that, while the world is two thousand million years old, life on earth is only three hundred million years old, and man has been here only for three hundred thousand years, and civilised man only for six thousand years."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "I wonder how much longer civilised man will be allowed to live by the accused. Perhaps he will get his ticket of leave long before 2000 A. D. Leaving that alone, tell me this. Have you improved much owing to the accused's activities?"

KNOWLEDGE: "His activities were well advanced even by the time I arrived at my age of discretion. So, almost my entire equipment now is due to him."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "So, how can you compare what existed before with what exists now?"

KNOWLEDGE: "I can only say what I think."

JUDGE CULTURE: "What you *think* does not matter. Confine your evidence to what you *know*, from your own personal experience."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Anything else, sir, to the credit of the accused?"

KNOWLEDGE: "Lots and lots. The exploration of the floor of the ocean, the determination of the age of the earth, the enquiry into the origins of the mountains, seas and continents, the discoveries of minerals and ores, underground rivers and oil wells, and about the progress of life on earth, the advance in agriculture, the growth of anatomy and botany, the rise of psychoanalysis, the true interpretation of dreams, the exploration of the roots of the conscious, the subconscious, and the unconscious, the driving away of ghosts.............."

Public Prosecutor: "And the installation of devils in their stead! I tell you, by the filth you call knowledge, and disseminate, all the springs of life are poisoned, and our happiness is destroyed."

Knowledge: "Say not so. It is far better to know and suffer than be happy like the beast. The power to feel and the strength to suffer, the will to fight for freedom and the zeal to know the truth and speak it, belong to the better classes of humanity, while the slaves and the hirelings are dumb. A happiness born of ignorance is no good."

Public Prosecutor: "See those of our religious men who, devoid of the least knowledge, are ideally happy, in spiritual bliss."

Knowledge: "Those are only happy like buffaloes wallowing in mud."

Public Prosecutor: "Don't blaspheme!"

Knowledge: "I am not blaspheming. He alone blasphemes who smothers the truth his conscience bids him utter."

Public Prosecutor: "You have no dreams like them. That is why you call them buffaloes."

Knowledge: "No dreams? Good Heavens! All the dreams of all the dreamers through the ages are pulsating in my heart's blood."

Public Prosecutor: "And what is pulsating in the hearts of these religious men I mentioned?"

Knowledge: "The darkness of the night which is within them, as it is without."

Public Prosecutor: "Oh, your conceit! And yet they despise the flesh, and you glory in it!"

Knowledge: "He who scorns the flesh despises Nature's Holiest of Holies. Only in the Body's Temple burns that mystic light, the Soul."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "And yet you have no reverence for the sacred mysteries of Religion ?"

KNOWLEDGE: "No. I love not, fear not, revere not what transcends my understanding. I keep my affection and reverence for the brethren whom I know."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "You evidently don't believe in sacred institutions like Church and State, King and Country ?"

KNOWLEDGE: "Church and State, King and Country, Home Rule and Democracy, Progress and Culture. Loaves and Fishes, are still potent slogans in the land. Shibboleths like these are precious, though one man's shibboleth swallows another's."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "You believe, I hear, that everybody can give us pleasure in some way or other ?"

KNOWLEDGE: "Yes. Some do it by coming into the room where we are, and others by going out of it." *(Laughter)*

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "How can you distinguish between Truth and Falsehood without the aid of Religion ?"

KNOWLEDGE: "Religion has no test which is scientific. He simply calls his doctrines true, and his opponent's false, like the four blind men of Hindustan. I make Truth and Falsehood stand together in God's sunlight. And, lo, Falsehood withers away, but Truth does not. It has been truly said that you can fool all men for some time with a lie, and some men for all time, but not all men for all time."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Who is interested in fooling men with lies?"

KNOWLEDGE: "Religion, who still tricks gullible people with his out-worn creeds. It is the way of men like him, when they have no living contact with God, to hate liberty and light. They compel many a man to live a life of lies. Fear of opposing them brings about outward conformity, but there is all the time secret breaking of their creeds and dogmas, and the result is rank hypocrisy and a life of lies."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Now, finally what will man gain by following you?"

KNOWLEDGE: "If man, deluded man, will but follow me truly, never will he lose his birthright of freedom again, never bend his knee before tyrants here on earth or in Heaven. I shall teach him all the wondrous lore of Nature and the love that passeth understanding."

(*Knowledge gets down, and Transport gets in.*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "What is your opinion about the accused's activities, sir?"

TRANSPORT: "Before the days of the accused, it was impossible to go to distant places, either on business, or for pleasure, or on pilgrimage, or even to visit dying parents and relatives. Now, owing to motor-cars, steam-ships, trains, and planes, we can do all these things with ease. The jolting of the bullock-carts is over, and the exhilarating travel in aeroplanes has taken its place. Those slow motion activities have been replaced by delightful quick motions. London can be reached now in 24 hours, whereas it took 24 years in the days of the bullock-cart and the canoe. The mariner's compass and the magnetic needle have enabled us to travel in the darkest nights with perfect safety."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Do you know that a certain fly flies faster than the fastest plane invented by man?"

TRANSPORT: "You mean the deer-bot fly. Well, we are after it. We have left the eagle far behind. We are now at grips with this fly. Its speed is given at 770 miles an hour by its extreme supporters. We shall soon catch it up. The *Thunderbolt* pursuit plane has just now reached 727 miles an hour."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "And you will catch up the speed of light also?"

TRANSPORT: "Not likely. I don't suppose that man, with his body, can ever hope to travel at such a speed."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Oh yes, in thought when he is alive, in soul when he is dead" (*Laughter*). "But, of course, you had nothing to do with this. Nor the accused either."

TRANSPORT: "Revelling in such speed after death, why do you object to the speed of aeroplanes?"

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Are you aware that aeroplanes are daily taking germs of Yellow-fever and other deadly diseases to new countries?"

TRANSPORT: "But, there is the quarantine."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Is it completely effective?"

TRANSPORT: "I do not know, and I do not care. It is far better to enjoy life for a short time than to live like stones for ages."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Do you own a car?"

TRANSPORT: "Yes."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "At what rate do you drive it?"

TRANSPORT: "Never at less than 60 miles an hour"

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Is it not dangerous?"

TRANSPORT: "I have not died yet."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Have you killed any persons?"

TRANSPORT: "Yes. Seven."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "Have you never been convicted?"

TRANSPORT: "No. All the magistrates who tried me owned motor-cars, and understood my difficulties. And all the policemen to whom I gave lifts loved speed, and gave their evidence half-heartedly."

JUDGE CULTURE : " Don't talk like that. Answer to the point, and say merely ' I was not convicted. ' "

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : " You can also travel in these fast conveyances to attack and kill others, and not merely to visit dying parents and relatives ?"

TRANSPORT : " That is so. But, I must add this. Formerly, millions used to die of famine ; but, owing to fast conveyances transporting food, nobody dies now. Ten million people died in the Bengal famine of 1770. Six millions died in the Orissa famine of 1866, and half a million in the great famine of 1896-97. Not even a thousand died in the 1911 famine."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : " Are you aware that the transport of foodstuffs from places of plenty to places of scarcity has resulted in chronic starvation and malnutrition all over the country, and that we are living corpses owing to lack of sufficient nourishing food ?"

TRANSPORT : " I am not aware."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : " Do you know whether your neighbours have enough food ?"

TRANSPORT : " I don't know even whether the other members of my family have enough food. I fill my belly first." (*Laughter.*)

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : " Quite worthy of a witness for the accused !"

TRANSPORT : " Don't forget that I get for you and the Judges the luxuries and medicines you require, from across the seven seas."

JUDGE CULTURE : " If you didn't, we would have gone without !"

(Transport is discharged. Electricity is called.)

DEFENCE COUNSEL: "Tell the Court what you know about this accused."

ELECTRICITY: "Before the accused began his activities, people were troubled with candle lights that went out, with oil lamps and hurricane lanterns which emitted a bad smell, and country torches which set fire to thatched sheds: but, after the accused began his activities, clean and beautiful electric torches and lights came into vogue. Nights were converted into days, by electric moons, and people could work all through the nights as they are doing now for manufacturing munitions. Rocks, which could not be blasted by thousands of men, are blasted by a single electric machine. Hidden things in the human bodies which could not be seen by the most powerful eye, are exhibited clearly by X-Ray. The Telegraph, the Radio, the Telephone, and Television have made human lives enjoyable and pleasant, and speeded up contracts and increased trade. Refrigerators have made it possible to eat fruits all through the year. Even corpses can be kept well preserved for 30 or 40 years, like Lenin's in Moscow. The bottom of the sea can be explored by the latest inventions of the accused. Deep ships, sunk in fathomless depths, can be hauled up again, and trains, submarines and air-ships kept in contact with places thousands of miles away from them."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: "What good is it keeping corpses for 30 years? Is it not better to bury or burn them and be finished with them?"

ELECTRICITY: "Corpses like yours, of course, had better be disposed of at once."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "Don't mention personalities, please."

ELECTRICITY: "Very well, my lord. I only meant to say that corpses like those of your lordships, the Public Prosecutor, and others, need not be preserved. But, what will we not give to

have the bodies of the prophets and benefactors of mankind always on view, for us to see and draw inspiration from ?"

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Speaking of contracts by telegrams, have they not increased stock-jobbing and speculation ?"

ELECTRICITY : "Yes, but only just as the gift of eloquence makes a fool more foolish."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Are not attacks in wars organized by telegrams, telephone and the other devices you mentioned ? Are not barbed wires charged with electricity used to kill men ?"

ELECTRICITY : "Yes. But I say that they are merely an abuse of good things."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Speaking of these 'good things', have you done anything to popularize television in India ?"

ELECTRICITY : "No."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "Why are you withholding a good thing from this great and ancient country ?"

ELECTRICITY : "Because I am not supplied with the necessary funds."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "May I take it, then, that you are a mercenary, and not a champion of human happiness, as you pretended a while ago ?

ELECTRICTY : "I submit that I am not a mercenary. But I require funds just as much as you do. Before and after this accused began his operations, nothing was done for nothing."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR : "What about the electric tote ? Do you defend it also ?"

ELECTRICITY : "I don't. It is people like you who defend it. In fact, by completely replacing horse power, I shall, eventually, cause horses to go out of use and put a stop to the races."

JUDGE CULTURE: "Electric motor-car races will then take their place." (*Laughter.*)

(*Electricity is discharged. The case is closed.*)

DEFENCE COUNSEL: (*to the jury*): "Gentlemen of the Jury, you have heard with great attention the evidence on both sides. Some people don't want to hear both sides of anything except it be of gramophone records. But, you are not like that. This case is frivolous in the extreme. Humanity is not dead. Far from it! It is not only living in you, and in the Judges, but also in the witnesses and the counsel on either side, and the numerous advocates and spectators assembled here, let alone the teeming millions outside. Obscurantists, like the Zamindar, timorous persons, like Old Thought, hypocrites, like Religion, liars by practice and profession, like Politician, and hide-bound bureaucrats, like the Investigating Officer, find the beneficent activities of the accused highly disturbing. They will find their occupations gone, if my client succeeded in his efforts in ridding the world of out-worn men like obscurantist thinkers, interested investigators, ignorant priests, and professional politicians. Respectable witnesses, like Medicine, Knowledge, Transport and Electricity, all well-known citizens of the greatest repute, have given evidence on behalf of my client. I ask you to ring out the old, ring in the new, and return a unanimous verdict of 'not guilty' and ensure mankind's progress. If Science quits the field, what do you think will happen? Superstition, sponsored by Religion and Old Thought, and encouraged by Zamindar and Politician, will take his place with his pseudo-knowledge, like a quack medicine which passes muster till proved drugs are introduced. Man will always love power and the knowledge which brings power. If the knowledge is withheld, pseudo-knowledge will be cultivated and put into operation, with consequences infinitely more disastrous. I ask you to find the accused not guilty, and to see that the powers of darkness are not let loose on a world which is just having a few glimmerings of light, thanks to Science."

PUBLIC PROSECUTOR: *(to the jury)*: "Gentlemen of the Jury, the case against the accused, I submit, has been fully proved by the disinterested evidence of respectable witnesses, like the Zamindar, Old Thought, Religion and Politician, let alone the Investigating Officer. What is there in rebuttal except the evidence of the creatures of the accused, like Medicine, Transport, Knowledge and Electricity, all of whom depend on him and derive their sustenance from him? The fact that humanity is not yet dead is no more proof that it will not die out by 2000 A. D. than the fact that you and I are alive today is proof that we will not die by 2000 A. D. I would request you to return a unanimous verdict of 'guilty' and ensure the punishment of this criminal. Superstition may *impede* the progress of humanity. But Science will *end* humanity. So, decide wisely, like responsible men. Let this trial not be another illustration of the cynical saying 'Life is full of trials, with an occasional conviction."'

(The judges consult together.)

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: *(summing up to the jury on behalf of the Full Bench)*: "Gentlemen of the Jury, this case is a rather difficult one. But, you have heard the evidence carefully, and are in as good a position as the Judges to arrive at a conclusion. The witnesses on both sides are, I am sorry to say, interested, and, to a certain extent, not wholly reliable. Politician is, by nature and training, an opportunist; the Zamindar is a conservative; Religion is hidebound by tradition, and afraid of change; Old Thought is static, and dreads New Thought. The Investigating Officer is always out to prove a case against the man he arrests. On the other hand, Medicine, Transport and Electricity are wholly dependent on the accused. Even Knowledge is largely dependent on him. As for humanity, though it is not yet dead, still, one can never be sure whether it will die by 2000 A. D. or not. But the point is not very material. We are concerned here with an *attempt* to murder humanity, and not with a *successful attempt*. I may tell you, that, under our law, an attempt to pick-pocket is proved even

though it could never have succeeded owing to there being nothing in the pocket to pick. So, what you are concerned with in this case is the truth or otherwise of the alleged attempt by the accused. You need not worry about the alleged activities of Superstition. He is not an accused before you, and you ought not to judge him behind his back. Your sole concern now is with this case and with this accused. You are free to return three kinds of verdicts, 'guilty,' 'not guilty', and 'not proven'. The accused is entitled to the benefit of the doubt. Gentlemen, please retire and consider your verdict carefully, and give your own independent verdict according to your conscience. Remember, fore-thought often prevents after-thought."

(The jury retire to the jury room and consult together.)

FINANCE: "Now, we had better discuss our views frankly, in order to see whether we are unanimous or not. Education, what is your view?"

EDUCATION: "I don't like this accused or his activities overmuch. He is a fussy individual, always starting new theories about human nature, educability, intelligence, will, memory, virtue repression, character, and what not. He considers me to be an old fogey, and wants to replace me by a fellow of the very same name but quite unlike me in every vital matter. The old school tie means nothing to him. Age-long institutions, like God, King and Country, he is holding up to ridicule. But, all the same, I cannot give a verdict of 'guilty' against him without imperilling my position with the public, as also endangering my safety. For, if he is removed, and is not there to hold them in check, Religion will gag me, Zamindar will stunt me, Politician will pervert me, and Old Thought will petrify me. So, I shall take to the golden mean, the middle path, and return a verdict of 'Not Proven' and thus lead a relatively peaceful existence without serious danger from either camp."

FINANCE: "There is sound sense in what you say. What opinion have you formed, Service?"

SERVICE: "I agree with Education. The accused has proved, by his activities, that the criminal or the fallen woman is not a class apart, but of the very same humanity like the rest of us, and has thereby encouraged me much in my efforts to reclaim them. But, I don't want to say 'Not Guilty', and prefer to say 'Not Proven', from a suspicion that the man thinks that it is the non-convicts who have to be reformed, and not the convicts. That is carrying the thing too far, you know, the result of laboratory work which does not always correspond with the facts of life."

FINANCE: "What is your conclusion, Society?"

SOCIETY: "I agree with these two. I certainly shall not find Science 'Guilty'. For, then, where will we be? Think of the many fine foods and drinks he has got for us, the fast conveyances, the great conveniences of life, like posts and telegraphs, telephone and television, and the nice entertainments like the talkies! And, what does he get out of it all except the stuffy atmosphere of his laboratories? As against this, who are the fellows who depose against him? That old humbug, Religion, that arch-tyrant, the *Zamindar*, that stuck-up fool, Old Thought and that exploded volcano, Politician. I like that dear little man, the Inspector-General of Uncommitted Crimes, but, then, he is always concerned about crimes, not the kind of activity I approve of. Why, to speak the truth, I would have said even 'Not Guilty' but for encouraging Science who is a kind of upstart and will take such a verdict as indicating a certain lack of responsibility which he attributes to young women like me, as can be seen by his asking me not to weep during the trial."

FINANCE: "Now, Frontier, what say you?"

FRONTIER: "I too agree with these three. Everybody attacks me as congenitally possessed of predatory instincts. The accused alone has diagnosed the real reasons driving me to take to raids and robbery, namely, want of wealth due to lack of irrigation and electricity. So, I shall not find him 'Guilty' though, but for

his confounded discoveries, I would have triumphed over Interior long ago. I too shall only say 'Not Proven'."

FINANCE: "I heartily agree with all of you. I hate the accused for attacking my honesty and making it appear as if I am the ruin of every honest man on earth and am getting on at other people's expense. But, all the same, I am aware that but for him the petty money-lenders will oust me with their usurious rates. I am also aware that he is responsible for mathematics, the basis of my banks and accounts. So I too vote for a verdict of 'Not Proven'. I am glad that all of us agree, though for different reasons. Now, let us go back and deliver our verdict."

SOCIETY: "Just a minute. Do you think that these judges, the owl, the peacock and the ostrich, will agree. ?"

(The other jurors laugh).

FINANCE: "Madam, if they hear your irreverent remarks, they may have you up for contempt."

SOCIETY: "Why, don't you agree that they resemble those birds? The President of the Bench wanted all men to be like the owl, and I think that he ought to feel flattered by being called an owl. The apostle of culture, the peacock, has he reflected that once the feathers are plucked, the peacock is worse than a crow? As for the third one, hiding his head in the sands of his thought, to get at intuition, he does look even more ridiculous than the other two. I wonder how three such judges can ever agree."

FINANCE: "They will agree all right, madam, just as we five agree, about the accused and the cases before them, though they may never agree about their views on life or of each other. Well, they are getting rather impatient for our return."

EDUCATION: "Isn't it funny that they don't even suspect that we are discussing them now, and not the accused? Sometimes,

I wonder whether judges, who decide so many cases, can at once discover criminals, in their own private lives."

SERVICE: "I know they can't. I had to deal with an ex-convict who had once served as a butler under a well-known Judge and was regularly eating and drinking the very best his master had, leaving for him only the second best, and his lordship was not any the wiser, till the ex-convict robbed a humble neighbour and was instantly caught by him and handed over to the myrmidons of law."

(Laughter.)

FINANCE: "Come along! Let us deliver our verdict, and get rid of this case, and go home in time for dinner."

(The jury return.)

THE CLERK OF THE CROWN (*to the foreman*): "Has the jury arrived at its verdict?"

FOREMAN: "Yes"

CLERK: "Is the verdict unanimous?"

FOREMAN: "Yes"

CLERK: "What is the verdict?"

FOREMAN: "The case is 'not proven'."

(The Judges consult together.)

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "The jury have taken the path of least resistance, and given this neutral verdict. Let us discuss our views about it. On the whole, I am in favour of accepting it, with some reservations intended to make the accused not too elated, and to hold the Damocles' sword of Justice over his head in all his future activities. Frankly, I doubt whether civilised life is possible or desirable without his activities. So, it won't do to lock him up, let alone hang him and be rid of him for

ever. Perhaps, if he continues his headlong course and does not pull himself up, a security case may be allowed to be put up against him."

JUDGE CULTURE: "I think that civilised life was both possible and desirable before his advent in the fourth century B. C. Take the case of the Chaldeans and the Babylonians, of the Egyptians in the time of the pyramids, of the Chinese and the Indians of Mohenjodoro in the third millenium B. C. and even of our people in the time of the Buddha."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: "But, I was talking only of the future, brother."

JUDGE CULTURE: "Oh, the future! Yes, then, I agree. A snapped cord cannot be tied up again without showing the knot, a cleared doubt cannot but leave its trace behind, a civilised man cannot turn savage without showing his culture, and the world cannot be the same again after this accused began his activities. I sometimes ask myself 'What culture has Science, and why should he survive?' But at once, the thought occurs to me 'What culture has Politician, and why should he survive?' So, the politest thing is to find the case against either simply 'not proven', as this jury has done."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: (*to Judge Intuition*): "Now, brother, what are your views?"

JUDGE INTUITION: "Something tells me that the accused's activities are in the scheme of things, and that everything will come out all right in the end. But, then, of course, I have my misgivings too, remembering that this accused has no belief in intuition, and will call that precious god-given gift 'instinct', an altogether different and inferior thing. So, I too consider that the verdict of 'Not Proven' is the proper one."

JUDGE PHILOSOPHY: *(delivers the Judgment of the Bench)* "We accept the jury's verdict, and acquit the accused, but accord permission to the Government to bring a security case against him on proper evidence, provided that the same Public Prosecutor and Defence Counsel shall not appear, and that the same witnesses shall not depose again."

(Science is set at liberty. The Court rises.)

THE
END.

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